

Bourbeuse River Accesses for Linn District

Mint Spring Access

Tea Access

Ten Year Area Management Plan FY 2014-2023



David Allen

Forestry Division Chief

8-19-14

Date

Bourbeuse River Accesses Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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Jason Eikermann, Conservation Agent

Chris Newbold, Natural History Biologist

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CENTRAL REGION

RCT Chair

Vin Grace
Signature

8/4/14
Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Unit Chief

John Tuttle
Signature

8/19/14
Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Mint Spring Access	8409	1984	7.87	Crawford	Forestry	Forestry
Tea Access	8007	1980	5.4	Gasconade	Forestry	Forestry

Statements of Primary Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

Linn District Staff will implement the Area Manager's annual work plan and enforce Area regulations in order to minimize interruptions to public recreation.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future landscape conditions of Mint Spring and Tea Accesses are developed landscapes that promote recreation and access to the Bourbeuse River.

C. Federal Aid Statement

None

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area	Priority Area	Natural Area
Mint Spring Access	Bourbeuse River Fisheries Priority Watershed	None
Tea Access	Bourbeuse River Fisheries Priority Watershed	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Mint Spring Access	None	None	None
Tea Access	None	None	None

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area	Ramp Type	Boat Slide	Parking Area #
Mint Spring Access	Articulated matting	None	1-gravel
Tea Access	None	Gabion basket steps	1-gravel

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Mint Spring Access	None	None	Yes ^{1,2}	None	None	None	None
Tea Access	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

¹ 1987--Crawford Electric Cooperative easement.

² 1985—Highway and Transportation Commission easement.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Management centers on providing bank and boat access to the Bourbeuse River and preventing activities from compromising stream bank integrity. Currently only Mint Springs Access has an actual boat ramp. There are few wildlife or forestry resources on these small areas. Area maintenance is provided by staff within Forestry Division.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Primary uses involve vehicle/trailer parking, canoe or kayak launching, and bank fishing. Creating an environment for them to occur concurrently is the primary goal of both areas.
- 2) Eradicate invasive plant species such as autumn olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*), bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).
- 3) Annual flood events partially inundate accesses for days at a time. Public access is temporarily restricted as a result of these periodic floods. Post-flood cleanup involves some or all of the following: debris removal, ramp cleaning, parking lot grading and gravel replacement, replacing welcome sign or bulletin boards.

Management Objective 1: Avoid conflicts between groups or individuals by distancing users' activities.

Strategy 1: Maps and signs must be clearly marked to prevent conflict of activities. For example, place signs such as “No Parking” near boat ramp.

Strategy 2: When Special Use Permits are necessary for large group events, ensure these activities don’t hinder other recreationists. This can be accomplished through the use of explicit language directing the location of activities within the access.

Management Objective 2: Both accesses have well established populations of invasive plant species growing in the understory and along property boundaries. Cut and treat stumps with appropriately labeled herbicide.

Strategy 1: Make initial treatments and follow-up on annual visits to treat re-sprouts.

Management Objective 3: Where it is possible, minimize the damage from major flood events by removing susceptible targets such as signs or bulletin boards.

Strategy 1: Remove welcome signs or bulletin boards that are easily damaged prior to flood event.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Make public aware of special considerations through informational signs.

Management Objective 1: Promote Department special awareness programs aimed at controlling invasive or unwanted species such as zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*).

Strategy 1: Emphasize public awareness programs by posting public action notices on access bulletin boards.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain a clean, safe, and user friendly public use area for boaters, anglers, and campers.

Management Objective 1: Follow management guidelines found in the following sources: MDC Resource Policy Manual, District Work Plan, and Area Plan for Bourbeuse River Accesses.

Strategy 1: Perform access maintenance with personnel who are trained in **MAF** (Motorboat Access Operation and Maintenance) standards, familiar with local customers, and proactive in fulfilling the public's expectations.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Deter vandalism to parking lots, welcome signs, mowed areas, and shade trees.
- 2) Make facilities attractive to the public and maintain infrastructure to a satisfactory level.
- 3) Ensure boat ramps provide a reliable platform for launching boats.
- 4) Ensure area regulations are posted and visible to area users.
- 5) Limit special use permits to activities which fall within Department regulations so as to avoid large group vs. individual conflicts.

Management Objective 1: Reduce the vandalism to infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Utilize open communication between Resource Assistants and Conservation Agents concerning observed activities of users. Discuss occurrences and determine commonalities such as the time period when damage takes place.

Strategy 2: Conduct night patrol operations with Protection and Forestry District staff. Conducting After Action Reviews at work team meetings measure effectiveness of night patrols.

Management Objective 2: Maintain attractive infrastructure which encourages good public stewardship.

Strategy 1: Weekly maintenance during seasons of high use. Bi-weekly maintenance during seasons of low use as needed.

Management Objective 3: Provide a ramp which allows for boats to be launched safely and undamaged.

Strategy 1: Determine positive or negative experiences by communicating with boaters. This may result in periodically clearing debris from the end of the ramp or monitoring for holes in deep water. Large debris removal and major improvement requests will be funneled to D&D.

Management Objective 4: Ensure area regulations and policies are clearly posted (i.e. access regulation signs, Atlas database). Re-establish boundary signs annually.

Strategy 1: Establish an action step within District Annual Plan for sign inspections.

Management Objective 5: Follow previously set Department policy concerning allowable activities through special use permits.

Strategy 1: Refer to MDC Special Use Permit Policy when requests for special public use activities are received.

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Public Input Summary:

The draft Bourbeuse River Accesses for Linn District Management Plan was available for a public comment period May 1-31, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. Resource Policy Manual. 2013. MDC Intranet.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Linn District Accesses on the Bourbeuse River.

Appendix 2: Mint Spring Access Area Background

Appendix 3: Mint Spring Access Area Map

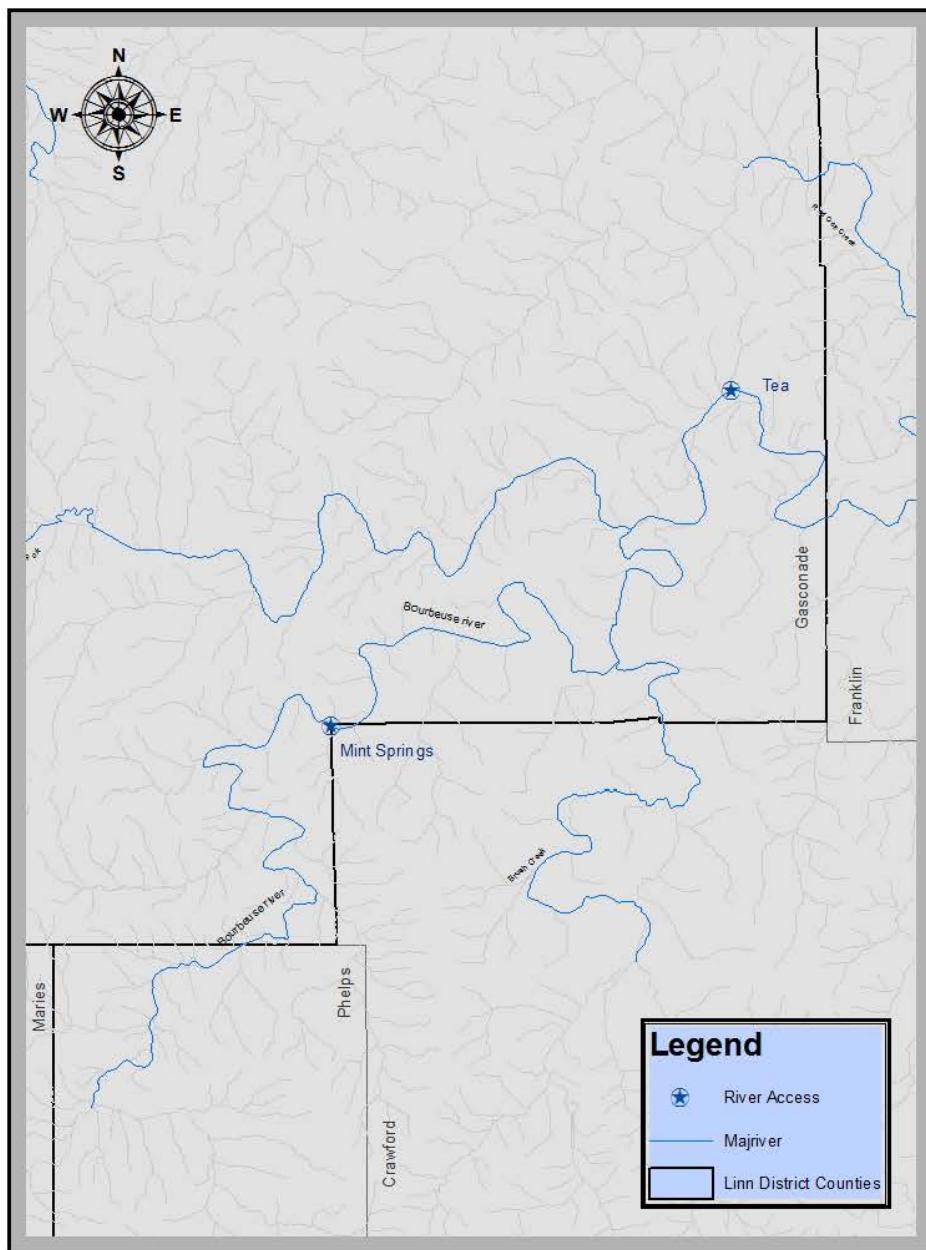
Appendix 4: Mint Spring Access Aerial Map

Appendix 5: Tea Access Area Background

Appendix 6: Tea Access Area Map

Appendix 7: Tea Access Aerial Map

Appendix 1: Linn District Accesses on the Bourbeuse River.



Appendix 2: Mint Spring Access Area Background

Mint Spring Access contains 10.52 acres and is predominantly located in Crawford County yet crosses Highway EE into Gasconade County. It was purchased September 16, 1983 for \$10,000 or about \$951 dollars per acre. At that time its condition was classified as "old field with timbered riparian corridor." 782 feet of river corridor are contained within its boundary.

Across Highway EE and adjacently to the south lies Mint Spring CA which contains the Mint Spring Seep Natural Area (5 acres) sustaining an abundance of bottomland plant species. Inconsistent with its name, no natural spring exists on the premises but a seasonal fen adds to the heavy, year-around flow of a creek. This creek is partially fed by an annual yet very low volume spring flowing under the highway and entering the SE corner of the area. Privately owned and located further south is a larger spring that keeps this creek full. It flows across a concrete, low-water bridge on Mint Springs county road passing through the Area and into the Bourbeuse.

At the writing of this plan, the Access continues to have a fully stocked, forest riparian corridor composed of American sycamore, honeylocust, shellbark hickory and eastern red cedar. The understory contains the same species with multi-flora rose remnants, poison-ivy, and very light grasses dominating the ground layer. The old-field portion has a canopy of pecan, American sycamore, and silver maple while the midstory and primary species is eastern red cedar. Similar ground cover species exist in the old field.

In 2008, an articulated concrete mat was placed on the ramp and adjoining river banks were cleared of trees. This provides better support for trailers and vehicles versus a dirt ramp. A small parking lot is the only other facility at the access which if towing trailers will accommodate up to 6 vehicles.

Trends in use tend to vary with time of year and sport fishing seasons but correlate primarily with weather patterns. Department staff who patrol or perform maintenance observe an overall reduction of use during the coldest months of the year, mainly December and January. However, if unseasonably warm weather should occur, access use will “spike” despite the usual trends.

Legal Description: Township 40 North, Range 5 W, Section 18 (Crawford).

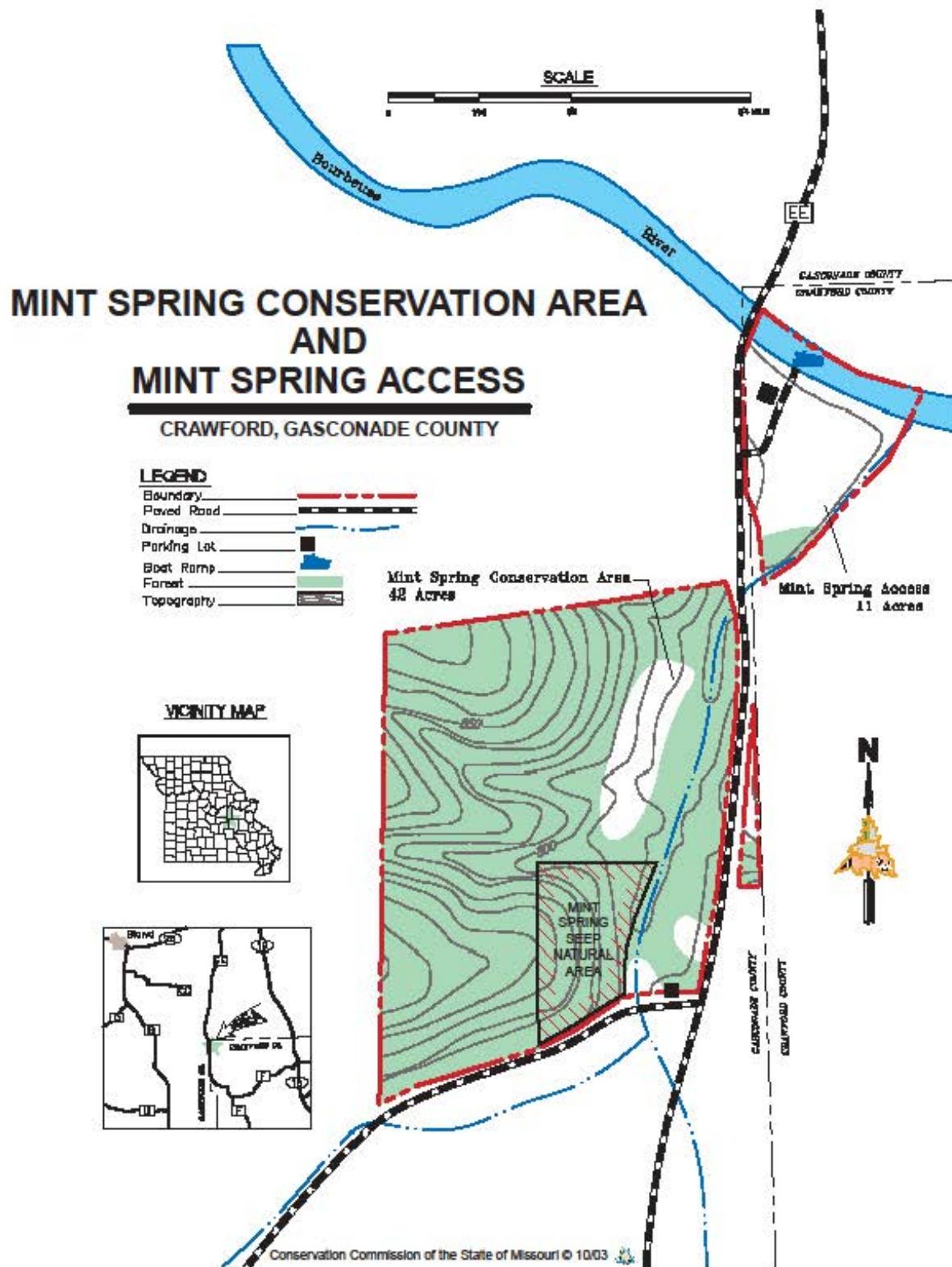
Township 40 North, Range 6 W, Section 13 (Gasconade).

Area Location: Mint Spring Access is located on Highway EE, 9 miles south of Owensville.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Old field	8.8		84
River corridor	1.7		16
Total	10.5		100
Stream Frontage		0.15	

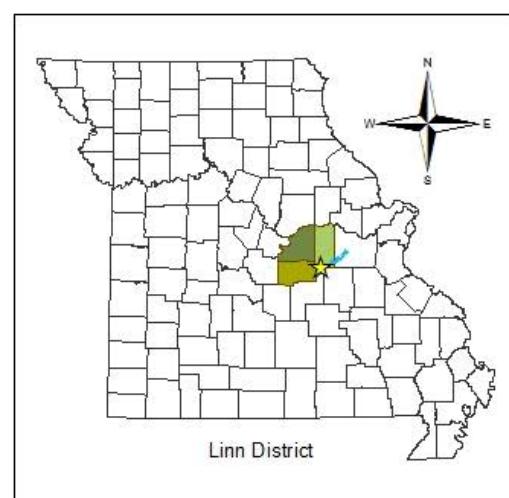
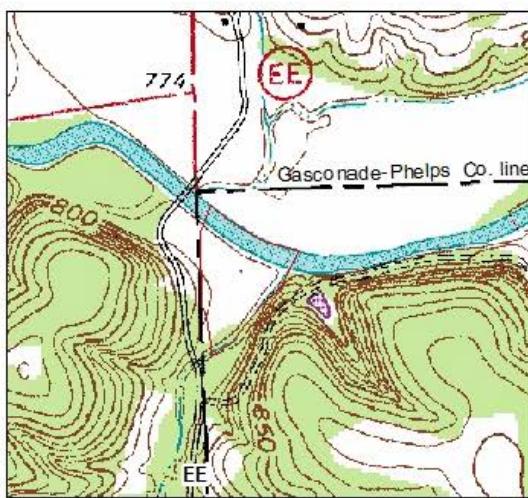
Appendix 3: Mint Spring Access Area Map



Appendix 4: Mint Spring Access Aerial Map



Mint Spring Access



Appendix 5: Tea Access Area Background

Tea Access contains five acres located in Gasconade County. It was purchased January 8, 1980 for \$7,000 or about \$1,400 dollars per acre. At that time its condition was classified as “bottomland field edged with timber” There is 500 feet of river frontage on the south edge of the property.

At the writing of this plan, the Access continues to have a fully stocked, forest riparian corridor composed of American sycamore, honeylocust, boxelder, and silver maple. A deep ditch cuts along the parking lot from Tea Road to the river. Large hardwood trees are growing in this area and should remain to reduce the effects of water runoff.

In 2004, 200 feet of the river bank was armored with large rock and gabion-style steps were installed in order to allow users to approach the water for fishing or launching a canoe. A small parking lot is the only other facility at the access which including trailers will accommodate up to 6 vehicles.

Trends in use tend to vary with time of year and sport fishing seasons but correlate primarily with weather patterns. Department staff who patrol or perform maintenance observe an overall reduction of use during the coldest months of the year, mainly December and January. However, if unseasonably warm weather should occur, access use will “spike” despite the usual trends.

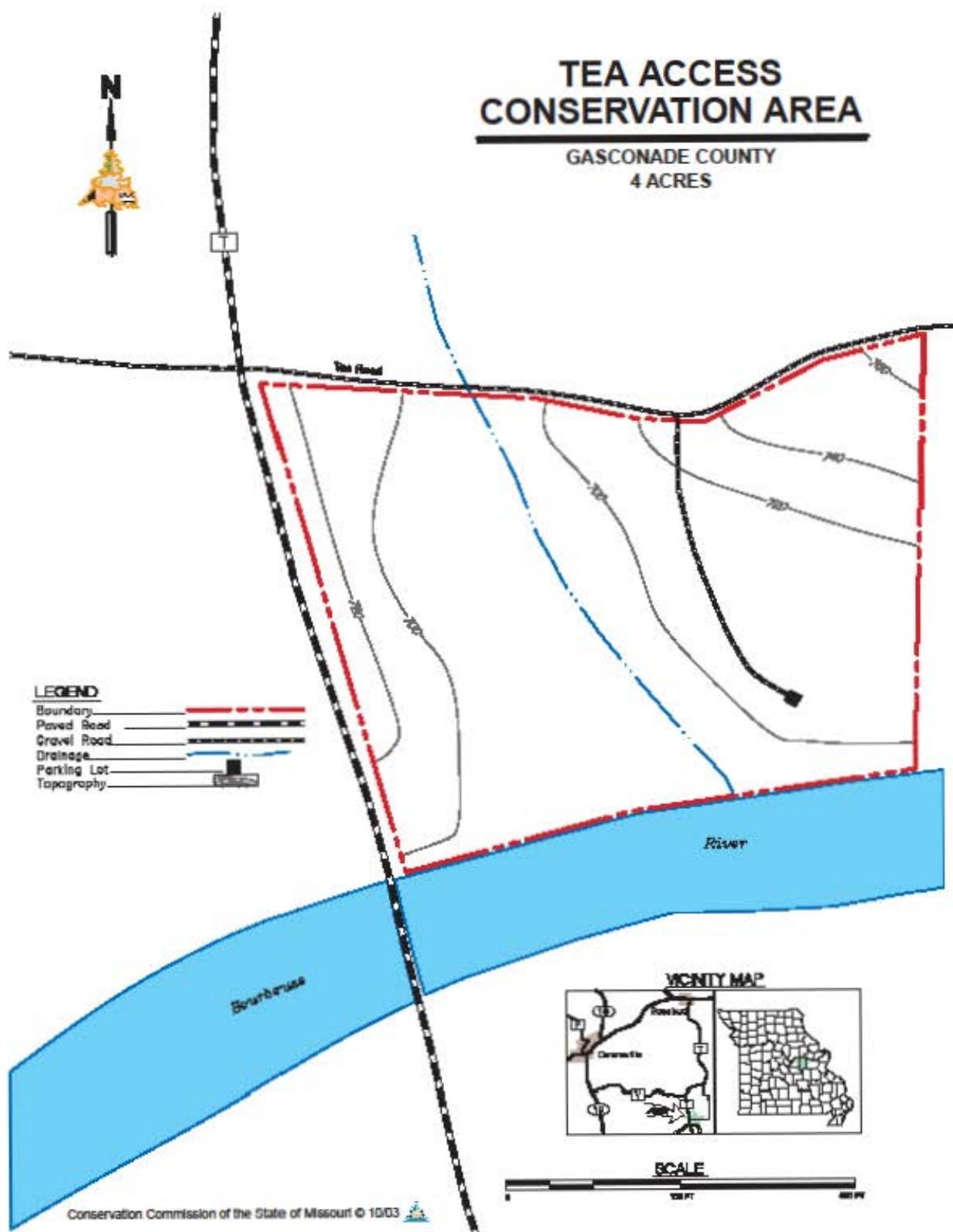
Legal Description: Township 41 North, Range 4 W, Section 17 (Gasconade).

Area Location: Tea Access is located just east of State Road T, on Tea Road, 6 miles south of Rosebud.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Bottomland forest	5		100
Total	5		100
Stream Frontage		0.94	

Appendix 6: Tea Access Area Map



Appendix 7: Tea Access Aerial Map



Tea Access

